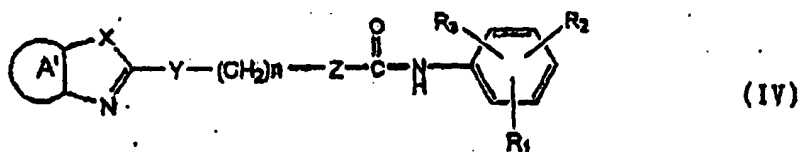


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15. (cancelled)

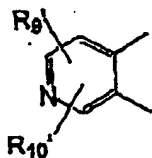
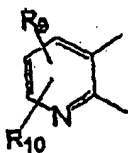
Claim 16. (currently amended) A compound represented by the following general formula IV, a salt thereof or a solvated product thereof:

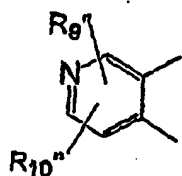


wherein

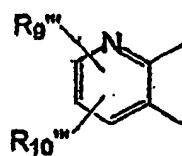


represents





or



X represents -NH-, oxygen atom or sulfur atom;

Y represents -NR₄-, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, sulfoxide or sulfone;

Z represents single bond;

R₁, R₂ and R₃ may be the same or different and represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, halogen atom, hydroxyl group, phosphate group, sulfonamide group, or amino group which may or may not have a substituent; otherwise, any combination of two of R₁, R₂ and R₃ represents an alkylene dioxy group;

R₄ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group or a silylated lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent; and

~~R₅ represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group or a silylated lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent;~~

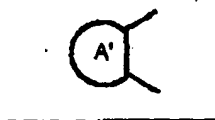
R₉, R₁₀, R_{9'}, R_{10'}, R_{9''}, R_{10''}, R_{9'''}, and R_{10'''}, may be the same or different and represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent, a lower alkoxy group which may or may not have a substituent, halogen atom, hydroxyl group, carboxyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group which may or may not have a substituent, an alkyl carbonyloxy group which may or may not have a substituent, an alkyl carbonyl group which may or may not have a substituent, carbamoyl group which may or may not have a substituent, a hydroxyalkyl group, phosphate group, sulfonamide group, amino group which may or may not have a substituent, an aminoalkyl group which may or may not have a

substituent, or a heterocyclic residue; otherwise, any combination of two thereof represents an alkylene dioxy group; and

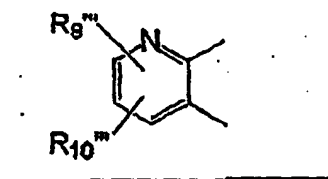
n represents an integer of + 2 to 15;

with the provision that when n is 1 then X is --NH--

with the proviso that when X is sulfur atom then



is not

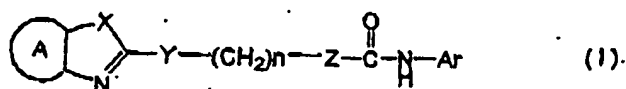


Claim 17. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound, a salt thereof or a solvated compound thereof according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 16~~ claim 16, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 18. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, which is an ACAT inhibitor, an intra-cellular cholesterol transfer inhibitory agent, a blood cholesterol-reducing agent or a macrophage foaming-suppressing agent.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, which is a prophylactic and therapeutic agent of hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, cerebrovascular diseases, ischemic cardiac diseases, ischemic intestinal diseases or aortic aneurysm.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A method for therapeutically treating diseases with the etiology of ACAT, intra-cellular cholesterol transfer, blood cholesterol or macrophage foaming, comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a compound according to Formula (I), a salt thereof or a solvated compound thereof:



wherein



represents a divalent residue of pyridine which may or may not have a substituent;
and

Ar represents an aryl group which may or may not have a substituent;

X represents -NH-, oxygen atom or sulfur atom;

X represents -NR₄-, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, sulfoxide or selfone;

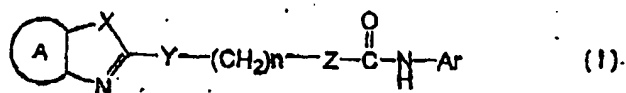
Z represents single bond;

R₄ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group or a silylated lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent; and

~~R₅ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group or a solvated lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent; and~~

n represents an integer of 1 to 15.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A method for therapeutically treating hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, ~~cerebrovascular diseases~~, ischemic cardiac diseases, ischemic intestinal diseases or aortic aneurysm, comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a compound according to Formula (I), a salt thereof or a solvated compound thereof;



wherein



represents a divalent residue of pyridine which may or may not have a substituent;

Ar represents an aryl group which may or may not have a substituent;

x represents -NH-, oxygen atom or sulfur atom;

Y represents -NR₄, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, sulfoxide or sulfone;

Z represents single bond;

R₄ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group or a silylated lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent; and

~~R₅ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group or a solvated lower alkyl group which may or may not have a substituent; and~~

n represents an integer of 1 to 15.

Claims 22-26. (cancelled)

Claim 27. (new) A method of claim 20 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from a disease having etiology of ACAT, intra-cellular cholesterol transfer, blood cholesterol or macrophage foaming.

Claim 28. (new) A method of claim 20 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from a disease having etiology of ACAT.

Claim 29. (new) A method of claim 20 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from a disease associated with intra-cellular cholesterol transfer.

Claim 30. (new) A method of claim 20 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from a disease associated with blood cholesterol or macrophage foaming.

Claim 31. (new) A method of claim 20 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from a disease associated with macrophage foaming.

Claim 32. (new) A method of claim 21 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, an ischemic cardiac disease, an ischemic intestinal disease or aortic aneurysm.

Claim 33. (new) A method of claim 21 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from hyperlipidemia.

Claim 34. (new) A method of claim 21 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from arteriosclerosis.

Claim 35. (new) A method of claim 21 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from an ischemic cardiac disease.

Claim 36. (new) A method of claim 21 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from an ischemic intestinal disease.

Claim 37. (new) A method of claim 21 wherein the compound of Formula (I), salt thereof or solvated compound thereof is administered to a patient suffering from aortic aneurysm.